

**Commission on Aging
Public Policy Committee
February 14, 2019, 9:30-11:30 am
7300 Calhoun Place, Suite 600, Conference Room 6C
Minutes**

Members Present: Stephanie Edelstein, Mort Faller, Isabelle Schoenfeld, Beverly Rollins, Neal Brown, Nanine Meiklejohn, Ryan Wilson

Staff Present: Shawn Brennan, Marcia Pruzan (Senior Fellow)

Others Present: Melissa Wu, GROWS Board Member

Meeting Commenced: 9:34 am

County Issues

Polling Place Accessibility: A Montgomery County election judge wrote to the County Board of Elections regarding concerns at some county polling places about access to the ballot because of issues relating to vision, mobility, waiting time, and caregiver accommodations. The Committee decided to refer the matter to the Executive Committee.

TSIF: The Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF) Program was a topic of discussion at Age Friendly Montgomery. The committee decided that the COA should seek a status update on the TSIF regulations and should communicate its willingness to give feedback before the regulations are proposed.

Accessory Dwelling Units – Nanine informed the committee that the Aging in Community Committee wants to write a letter of support. The committee discussed following our current policy of having a broad letter supporting the general principle of making affordable housing for seniors more affordable rather than specifically supporting the language of the bill.

Senior Nutrition Program – Nanine informed the committee that the Aging in Community Committee is also studying the County's Senior Nutrition Program.

State Issues

Stephanie reported that the COA has already sent a letter of support (repurposed from last year's letter) for HB 628, the Just Cause Eviction bill. Stephanie volunteered to write a letter of support for SB 654, which reduces the time that a homeowner must reside in their home to qualify for a property tax credit. The bill is similar to one the COA supported last year.

Ryan volunteered to write letters of support for the Medicaid home-and-community-based waiver bills (SB 699 and 700, and their house cross-files).

Stephanie volunteered to write a letter of support for HB 485, which establishes a Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Protection Unit within the Office of the Attorney General.

The committee also discussed other bills and will continue to monitor legislation as the legislative session progresses.

The committee discussed monitoring legislation during the 2019 legislative session. Stephanie will monitor legislation as it comes in for issues of concern to the COA.

Federal Issues

The Committee discussed the recently-reintroduced federal Stop Senior Scams Act, which is sponsored by the Ranking Member and Chair of the Senate Aging Committee, Senators Casey and Collins.

Other Business

COA has received six positive and seven ambivalent replies from other county aging commissions about AMCOA (Association of Maryland Commissions on Aging). The committee thought making Maryland an age-friendly state would be an issue on which AMCOA might be able to work. If not AMCOA, at least with cooperation from other county commissions.

Shawn agreed to follow up with Leslie Frey regarding the Age-Friendly Maryland issue, and Ryan agreed to contact AARP State Director Hank Greenberg regarding the issue.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:30 am